

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	DHSE-00	FBIE-00	VCJ-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00
	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	CBP-00	R-00	IIP-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	SWCI-00	/001W				

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O 211736Z JUN 07
 FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
 INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
 MAGHREB COLLECTIVE

RELEASED IN PART
 B1, 1.4(D)

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 000566

NOFORN
 SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2017
 TAGS: MR, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PTER
 SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET CIA
 PRISONS IN MAURITANIA

CLASSIFIED BY: CDA STEVEN KOUTSIS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B), (C) AND (D)

1. (U) THIS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARAGRAPH 6.

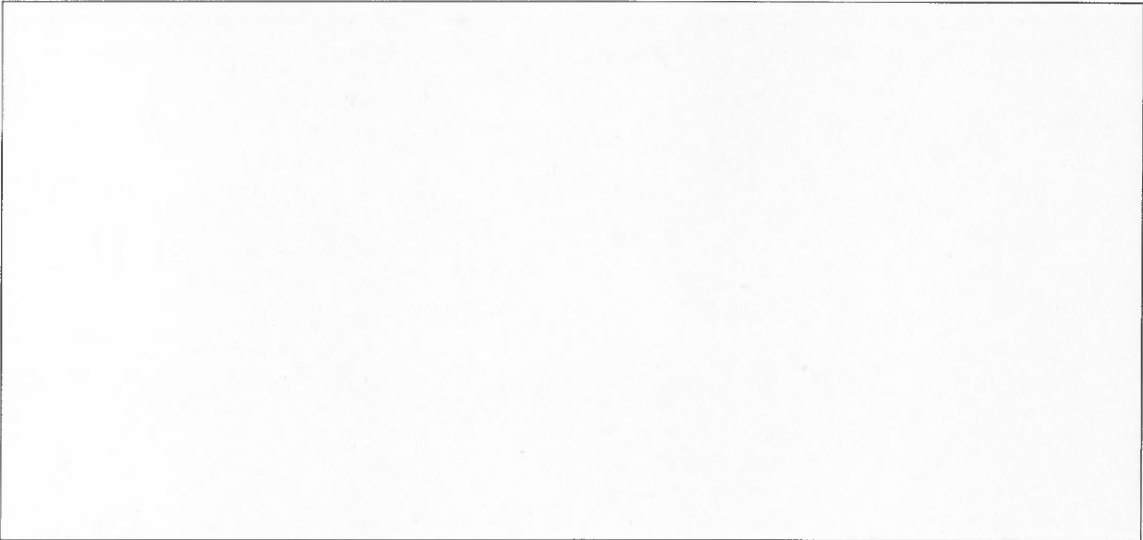
2. (U) A SPOKESMAN FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
 COOPERATION HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED WHAT HE CALLED
 "BASELESS" ALLEGATIONS, PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORKER, THAT THE
 GOVERNMENT OF COLONEL ELY VALL HAD ALLOWED THE CREATION OF
 SECRET CIA DETENTION CENTERS IN MAURITANIA. THE SPOKESMAN
 EMPHASIZED THAT MAURITANIA IS A DEMOCRATIC STATE THAT
 CONSIDERS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS SUPREME AND IRREVERSIBLE.
 THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE CAME FOLLOWING CALLS FROM OPPOSITION
 PARTIES FOR THE GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATE INQUIRY INTO THE
 MATTER.

3. (U) IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORKER TITLED "HOW
 ANTONIO TAGUBA, WHO INVESTIGATED THE ABU GHRAIB SCANDAL,
 BECAME ONE OF ITS VICTIMS" AND AVAILABLE ON-LINE, REPORTER
 SEYMOUR HERSH, CITING A FORMER SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL
 AND A GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT AS SOURCES, ALLEGED THAT AFTER
 EXISTENCE OF SECRET CIA PRISONS IN EUROPE WAS EXPOSED BY THE
 WASHINGTON POST IN LATE 2005, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

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"RESPONDED WITH A NEW DETAINEE CENTER IN MAURITANIA." THE SOURCES ALSO SAID, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE: "AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. TOOK POWER, IN A BLOODLESS COUP D'ETAT IN AUGUST, 2005,... IT WAS MUCH EASIER FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO MASK SECRET FLIGHTS THERE."

4. (U) SEVERAL LOCAL NEWS SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THE NEW YORKER STORY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RESPONSE. MOREOVER, CERTAIN PAPERS HAVE REINTRODUCED THE PREVIOUS RUMOR THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD A HAND IN THE 2005 BLOODLESS COUP, AND ONE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED THAT THE SUPPOSED DETENTION CENTER WAS AT THE MAURITANIAN MILITARY CAMP IN OUALATA. OTHER PRESS HAS PICKED UP HERSH'S SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH DEMOCRACY NOW! CORRESPONDENT AMY GOODMAN, WHERE HE SPECULATED THAT 37 TO 39 "OF THE TOUGHER HIGH VALUE TARGETS" WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY UNACCOUNTED FOR WERE IN FACT RENDERED TO MAURITANIA. HE CALLED THE SUPPOSED DETENTION CENTER THE "PRISON OF CHOICE." HE IS QUOTED TO SAY, "THAT THERE IS A PRISON THERE, NO QUESTION. ALL THE DETAILS, I REALLY DON'T KNOW."



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